

you were probably raising the insurance rates  
for everybody. therefore, you were actually  
(or actuarially, at least)  
doing tangible, economically measurable  
harm to others.

thus, the mandatory seatbelt law.  
thus, the smoker left  
with no place to smoke.  
thus, the sin taxes -- pay in advance  
for your eventual cirrhosis.

if aids were confined to the homosexual population  
the country would just let them all die off.  
but since it may not be, don't be surprised  
to see the nisei internment camps  
extended to gays.

i'm sure the technology already exists  
to detect whether you are brushing your teeth  
regularly and correctly.  
if not, why should i or my employer  
pay your periodontist for you?  
and if you get robbed or raped  
by someone who's just read  
a book of my poems,  
why shouldn't you be able to sue me for damages?

what's frightening is that i find that all  
but a few of my students,  
even the brightest of them,  
see nothing wrong with the above.  
they are comfortable with a world as  
projected and protected by the statisticians,  
politicians, criminologists, a.m.a.,  
and the radical leaders of these  
and other pseudo-liberal reforms.

but maybe they're right.  
god (read: b.f. skinner) knows  
how much of an impediment  
to our blandest of new worlds  
might prove even so pitiful  
a reactionary remonstrance

as this poem.

I'VE HAD MY UPS AND DOWNS WITH WOMEN

usually i knock them up  
and they knock me down.